

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 04005 181704Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T AMMAN 4005

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT--DISCUSSION WITH KING

REF: (A) STATE 159150, (B) AMMAN 3816

1. I MET WITH KING HUSSEIN ON JULY 18 FOR THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH HIM IN DETAIL SECRETARY'S PROPOSED TRIP. CHIEF OF PROTOCOL HAD EARLIER MENTIONED TO ME KING WAS ANXIOUS TO KNOW WHETHER ANY DETAILS HAD BEEN SET.

2. I TOLD KING BRIEFLY THAT DATES WOULD NOT BE SET UNTIL END OF PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S CURRENT VISIT AND THAT WAS AT PRESENT PROPOSED FOR LAST WEEK IN JULY AND FIRST WEEK IN AUGUST.

3. KING SAID PROCESSING OF HIS VISIT TO IRAN HAD NOW GONE FORWARD AND HE PLANNED TO BE AWAY FROM JULY 26 - AUGUST 2. HE ADDED THAT HE COULD BE BACK A DAY EARLIER IF IT BECAME NECESSARY IN ORDER TO SCHEDULE SECRETARY'S VISIT HERE. IN ADDITION, HE WILL HAVE AN EVENT IN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS FOR MOST OF AUGUST 3. FINALLY, KING TOLD ME HE WOULD BE TIED UP FROM

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AUGUST 10 IN THE EVENING AND ALL DAY ON THE 11TH FOR JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

4. KING WAS QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT BEGIN'S REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT AND WHETHER INDEED POSTPONEMENT AFTER AUGUST 10 WOULD TAKE PLACE.

5. SUBSEQUENTLY I MET WITH COURT CHIEF SHARAF.
HE TOLD ME PRIVATELY THAT KING VERY MUCH HOPED
TO LEAVE FOR LONDON FOR A WEEK'S REST ON AUGUST
12 WITH HIS YOUNG CHILDREN. HIS CONCERN
ABOUT A POSTPONEMENT IS BASED ON SUCH PLANS. IN
ADDITION, SHARAF TOLD ME THAT KING HAS ENGAGEMENTS
SET FOR FRANCE FOR FIRST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER.

6. KING OBVIOUSLY ANXIOUS TO KNOW OF SECRETARY'S
SCHEDULE, BUT UNDERSTANDS THAT FINAL DECISIONS
AWAIT COMPLETION OF BEGIN VISIT. WHILE FURTHER
POSTPONEMENT INTO AUGUST WOULD RAISE COMPLICATIONS,
JORDANIANS WILL ALSO TRY TO READ INTO ANY POSTPONEMENT
SIGNALS ABOUT SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF BEGIN VISIT AND
U.S. WILLINGNESS TO PERSEVERE ON PEACE PROCESS.
PICKERING

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NNN

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